Sethusamudram Project

†2562. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Sethusamudram Project is going on as per its time schedule;

(b) whether court has imposed any stay thereon;

(c) the level of water at the channel point;

(d) the total depth of the bridge;

(e) whether it is a fact that a number of machines had broken down;

(f) whether these have been repaired;

(g) whether the capacity of the machines was below the requirement of work;

(h) whether the Head of the project has been sent on leave; and

(i) the procedure followed for the citizens and people's representatives to enable them to reach the channel point?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No stay has been imposed by any court on carrying out dredging works for the project. However, in an order passed on 31st August, 2007, the Supreme Court has directed that no damage should be caused to the 'alleged Adam's Bridge/Rama Sethu'.

(c) and (d) Water level varies from 0 metres to 12 metres at various points along the approved alignment for the channel.

(e) and (f) The auxiliary spud of one of the dredgers deployed in the project had broken and has since been repaired.

(g) Most of the machines/vessels employed for the project are taken on charter hire after assessing their capacity. There is no evidence of hiring of machines/vessels that does not meet the requirement of work to be assigned to them.

(h) The earlier Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, the Special Purpose Vehicle for implementing the project, has been granted two months' leave upon his request.

(i) Access to the channel area is not restricted and can be reached by engaging a motor boat or a trawler.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.